

CONFIDENTIAL.]

## REPORT

[No. 39 of 1878.]

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 28th September 1878.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi" ... ..	Barāhanagar	4,000	
2	"Rājshāhye Sambād" ... ..	Rājshāhye	.....	
3	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā" ... ..	Bhawānīpore	.....	
5	"Suhrid" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Cālnā Prakāsh" ... ..	Cālnā	.....	
7	"Hindu Lalanā" ... ..	Nawābgunge, Barrack-pore.	.....	
8	"Sahayogī" ... ..	Bhawānīpore, Calcutta	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishī" ... ..	Bhawānīpore, Calcutta	.....	
10	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh	658	19th September 1878.
11	"Bhārat Sanskarak" ... ..	Harinābhi	.....	20th ditto.
12	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
13	"Bishwa Dūt" ... ..	Tāliganj, Calcutta	.....	
14	"Bardwān Prachārikā" ... ..	Bardwān	165	
15	"Bardwān Sanjīvanī" ... ..	Ditto	.....	24th ditto.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca	400	22nd ditto.
17	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	1,168	20th ditto.
18	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	200	18th ditto.
19	"Hindu Hitaishini" ... ..	Dacca	300	21st ditto.
20	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	18th and 25th September 1878.
21	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Berhampore	.....	20th ditto.
22	"Pratikār" ... ..	Ditto	235	20th ditto.
23	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākinia, Rangpore	250	
24	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah	516	22nd ditto.
25	"Sahachara" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	23rd ditto.
26	"Sambād Bhāskar" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
27	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Ditto	5,500	21st ditto.
28	"Soma Prakāsh" ... ..	Bhawānīpore	700	23rd ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
29	"Banga Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	4,000	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Sambād Prabhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	550	17th to 27th September 1878.
31	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	.....	21st to 25th ditto.
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto	625	19th to 25th ditto.
33	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
34	"Arya Mihir" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Howrah Hitakari" ... ..	Bethar, Howrah	300	22nd September 1878.
36	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	.....	20th ditto.
37	"Barisāl Vartābāha" ... ..	Barisāl	300	
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
38	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta	400	21st ditto.
<b>URDU.</b>				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
39	"Akhbār-ul-Akhiār" ... ..	Mazufferpore	.....	
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna	509	
41	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	26th ditto.
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
42	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto	250	27th ditto.



## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

SOM PRAKASH,  
September 23rd, 1878.

1. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 23rd September, deprecates a war with Cabul as quite uncalled for, and the proposed annexation of Afganisthan as a measure equally opposed to all principles of equity and statesmanship. The sending of an embassy to Cabul has been a judicious act. Let the ambassador, while there, seek to prevent the Amir from showing any partiality to Russia. But the idea of annexation is wicked.

War with Cabul deprecated.

GRAMVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
September 18th, 1878.

2. The *Grámvartá Prakáshiká*, of the 18th September, devotes a long editorial to the "Vernacular Press Act, and the loyalty of the natives." There is not the slightest necessity for this Act, for the doubt as to the loyalty of the people, on which it is based, is itself utterly unfounded. The Act should be repealed; but if any strong political reason exists for retaining it on the statute-book, there should be no distinction made between papers published in English and those that are published in any oriental language.

The Vernacular Press Act, and the loyalty of the natives.

GRAMVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA.

3. The same paper writes regarding the Lieutenant-Governor's tour through the Pubna district: The love which Sir Ashley Eden bears to the people has eclipsed all his other virtues. The searching and careful enquiries His Honor is making into the condition of the people and the state of the country, lead us to hope that distress arising from scarcity of food will not be suffered to continue long. But we are so unfortunate that, at times, we fear that all this may result in evil, and His Honor may get an impression that the people are well and sufficiently fed.

Sir Ashley Eden in Pubna.

PRATIKAR,  
September 20th, 1878.

4. Regarding the inefficiency of the police, the *Pratikár*, of the 20th September, writes as follows:—Besides the reasons referred to in our last article on the subject, there are others which go to show why the police in Bengal are not what it ought to be. Now, in the first place, in the detection of crime the officers of police in this country are not in the least assisted by the people. In all other civilized countries, the people are ever ready to render assistance. Our police, so far from receiving any aid, are hindered in their work by the readiness of the people to shield offenders. Nor is it difficult to account for this; for the bad characters whom the police seek to arrest are so feared, that people hesitate to come forward as their accusers. The prosecution not unfrequently breaks down for want of evidence; and if the offenders are acquitted, vengeance is sure to come upon the accusers. This is why the police are not generally aided by the people in their investigations, and why they are so often regarded as inefficient.

The Police.

The rules which regulate the transfers of police officers are, in a large measure, responsible for the inefficiency of those officers. They are being constantly removed from one station to another; thus making it almost impossible for them to acquire any local experience, and become acquainted with the ways and movements of the well-established *budmashes* of any particular locality. Sufficient time is not allowed them for making investigations. They are pressed for what are called "final reports." The police force is under-officered. Government would do well to increase the number of subordinate officers. The increased cost that would be necessary for this purpose should be met by abolishing some of the District Superintendentships, for which there is hardly any necessity. The writer, in conclusion, dwells on the haughty and overbearing manner of officers in this branch of the public service.



5. In an article on the Bill amending the Vernacular Press Act, the *Bhārat Sanskarak*, of the 20th September, expresses the same views as those noticed in paragraph 11 of our last report.

BHARAT  
SANSKARAK,  
September 20th, 1878.

6. The *Sādhārani* writes: We are fallen on evil days. Of all the deeds, good and bad, done by the British Government during the last hundred and twenty years, no one has pained us so deeply as the Vernacular Press Act. The liberty of the Press was one great privilege which made us forget the evils which attend subjection to a foreign power, for an outburst of grief eases the heart laden with sorrow. The Arms' Act deprived villagers of the means of protecting their crops from wild beasts. The License Tax Act is occasioning considerable suffering. The equalization of the salt duties is a measure which has entailed great suffering on the people of Madras, Bombay, and the North-West Provinces.

SADHARANI,  
September 22nd, 1878.

7. The same paper dwells on the evils of over-legislation. The rapidity with which Acts are being turned out, almost every week, is alarming. A little time hence it will seem to us to require a life-time to go through all the Acts. Multiply the laws and you stimulate the love of litigation. Acts are being passed for which there is not the slightest necessity. Thus, we have the Penal Code, and still Act IX was passed. The latter is again to be amended.

SADHARANI.

8. The *Soma Prakāsh*, of the 23rd September, contains an article headed the "Five years' Thikādār." The writer points to the defects which must inhere in a system of administration under which Viceroys hold office only for five years. It is almost impossible that the responsible and arduous duties of a Viceroy should be performed satisfactorily by men who have had no previous experience of the country and its people: even a common clerk, when transferred to a new office, takes more than six months to make himself acquainted with his work. The work of administration is especially difficult in India, which is a vast and populous country containing many independent and tributary states. Considering that even Europeans who have grown old in this country have but little experience of its men and manners, it is idle to expect that a Viceroy, fresh from England, should be able, in the space of five years, half of which is spent in seclusion at Simla, to rule the teeming millions with ability. The people get no good from the presence of such men. Just as tenants, who have no abiding interest in the soil, are unwilling to incur any expense for the purpose of improving it, and as thikādārs squeeze every pice they can from the ryots, so these rulers not only do little to improve the condition of the people committed to their charge, but impose new taxes just for the sake of the credit of having increased the revenue. There is no sympathy between such rulers and the people. This was evidenced in the terrible mortality which occurred during the Orissa famine, and which repeated itself in the North-West last year. The system of administration in India should be such as to make up for the evils which manifest themselves among a people who live at a distance from their sovereign. For this purpose, Viceroys should be appointed for life, and they should have a Council composed of representatives of all classes of the people, which should be regarded as a branch of the British Parliament.

SOM PRAKASH,  
September 23rd, 1878.

9. In an article on the Vernacular Press Act, the *Sahachar*, of the 23rd September, gives the substance of the memorial recently drawn up by the British Indian Association against the measure, and lays much stress on the

SAHACHAR,  
September 23rd, 1878.

The British Indian Association and  
the Press Act.



arguments urged by that body in favour of allowing a judicial trial to editors accused under the Act. The writer thus concludes the article: We are fighting for one of the principal privileges that belong to mankind, a privilege which was once ours. Our efforts to regain it may, for the present, prove futile, but they must prevail in the end; and we depend on our own exertions for success in the struggle. God is on our side. We are ready to do everything which may help the continuance of the present rule, but we have a right to be treated as gentlemen, as freemen, and not as slaves. Let Lord Lytton think over this, with an unbiased mind, and he will find that we are not unreasonable.

SAHACHAR,  
September 23rd, 1878.

10. The following is from an article in the same paper, headed "Tenantry in Behar:—If there is really any desire to improve the status of the tenantry in Behar, a short Act should be passed for their benefit. Although the permanent settlement of land obtains in that province, still there can be no comparison between the condition of the tenantry and their relations to their landlords, as these exist in Behar, and the state of things in Bengal. There is also a further reason. It is not wise, politically, to regard the zemindars of Behar as standing on the same platform with the zemindars of Bengal. The *patwaris* in Behar should be dismissed at once, and in a body. No one has any faith in their registers, which are becoming as untrustworthy as were the diaries of the darogahs of old. Regular surveys should be made. Although, owing to the absence of the system of leases and their counterparts, there is no certainty regarding occupancy rights, still, as a matter of fact, zemindars seldom change their tenants; so that it will not be difficult to determine what land has been in the possession of any particular individual, and for what period. Information should also be collected regarding the productive power of the soil, and the yield, per bigha, for the last ten years. This should be fixed with reference to the market prices. Enquiry should be made as to the different rates of rent received by landlords for different descriptions of land, and with reference to different crops. From our personal experience we know that the *thikádár* takes two-thirds of the produce. The present rates should be reduced. The *thikádári* system should be abolished by law. In conclusion, the writer asks what has become of the draft Rent Bill for Bengal. There being no representative of the ryots in the Legislative Council, the fullest publicity should be given to everything connected with this subject.

SAHACHAR.

11. The same paper thus speaks of Mr. Markby's services:—Mr. Markby was a friend of high education in this country, and expressed his disapprobation of the Press Act. As Vice Chancellor of the Calcutta University, he received commendation from the Governor-General in a letter in which not a word is said about his services as a Judge. The Judges of the High Court have become an eye-sore to the present Government. The Governor-General may not choose to say anything in the official Gazette concerning their services, but we assure the Judges that their acts are deeply engraven on our hearts. That the people are safe is owing to the High Courts.

SAHACHAR.

12. The same paper refers to the rumour that Mr. Souttar is to be appointed to the office of Police Commissioner of Calcutta and Chairman of the Municipality, in the following terms:—Mr. Souttar is the most deserving person for this office. He possesses considerable knowledge of human nature, and does not require to be told how to treat those who come before him. He has no "Sahibi" about him. Attentive to his own work, he knows how to get work out of others without hurting their self-respect: no consideration



can ever make him swerve from the path of duty. Mr. O'Kinealy in the judicial, and Mr. Souttar in the executive, service, have gained the esteem of all. We, however, doubt whether the state of Mr. Souttar's health will enable him to take up the duties of this new office.

LOCAL.

13. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 21st September, in noticing the rumour that the pumping-engine at Chandpal Ghât is to be removed to Koila Ghât to suit the convenience of the Judges of the High Court, observes that the Judges, and not the Government, should bear the cost of the removal.

URDU GUIDE,  
September 1st, 1878.

EDUCATION.

14. The *Bhârat Sanskâra*, of the 20th September, observes, with regret, that, for some years past, the Inspector of Schools of the Presidency Division has not visited certain schools in his division. The result has been that some of these once well-managed institutions have so deteriorated in respect of discipline that their very existence is threatened. The routine work of the Inspector's office may be easily overtaken in 15 days, and the rest of the month should be devoted to the inspection of schools. The same Inspector has most arbitrarily reduced the grant made to an efficient school, and has recently addressed a circular to the Secretaries of the aided schools, couched in terms that are far from courteous.

BHARAT  
SANSKARAK,  
September 20th, 1878.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 28th September 1878.

ROBERT ROBINSON,

Offg. Bengali Translator.



